



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

[Docket No. CISA-2023-0003]

Agency Information Collection Activities: **.gov Registrar**

AGENCY: Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

ACTION: 60-Day Notice and request for comments; New collection (Request for a new OMB Control Number)

SUMMARY: The .gov Registry Program within the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency will submit the following Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until *[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]*.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number Docket # CISA-2023-0003, at:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Please follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number Docket # CISA- 2023-0003. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: .gov is a ‘top-level domain’ (TLD), similar to .com, .org, or .us. Enterprises use a TLD to register a “domain name” (often simply called a domain) for use in their online services, like a website or email. Well-known .gov domains include whitehouse.gov, congress.gov, or uscourts.gov, but most .gov domains are from non-federal governments like ny.gov (State of New York) or lacounty.gov (LA County).

.gov is only available to bona fide U.S.-based government organizations and publicly controlled entities. When governments use .gov, they make it harder for would-be impostors to successfully impersonate them online.

Under the DOTGOV Act of 2020 (6 U.S.C. 665), CISA is responsible for the operation and security of the .gov TLD. Pursuant to that law, the .gov program at CISA works to “provide simple and secure registration of .gov internet domains”, “ensure that domains are registered and maintained only by authorized individuals”, and “minimize the risk of .gov internet domains whose names could mislead or confuse users”. In order to provision .gov domains to eligible government entities and ensure adherence to the domain requirements published by CISA pursuant to 6 U.S.C. 665(c), CISA needs to collect information from requestors of .gov domains.

The information will be collected on an online web portal called the “.gov registrar”, which is built and maintained by CISA. Requestors will be asked to provide information on the characteristics of their government entity (e.g., name, type, physical location, current domain), their preferred .gov domain name (e.g., example.gov), their rationale for the name, organizational contact information (names, phone numbers, email addresses), and nameserver addresses.

Only U.S.-based government organizations are eligible for .gov domains; some of these organizations may be small entities. The collection has been developed to request only the information needed to confirm eligibility and adjudicate a .gov domain request.

Without this collection, CISA will be unable to assess the eligibility of requestors nor provision .gov domains to government organizations. That outcome would decrease cybersecurity for governments across the nation and minimize the public’s ability to identify governments online.

In accordance with 6 U.S.C. 665(c)(4), CISA will “limit the sharing or use of any information” obtained through this collection “with any other Department component or any other agency for any purpose other than the administration of the .gov internet domain, the services described in subsection (e), and the requirements for establishing a .gov inventory described in subsection (h).” Certain metadata for any approved domains (domain name, organization name, nameserver address, city/state information, security contact) will be published online.

This is a new collection.

The Office of Management and Budget is particularly interested in comments which:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

ANALYSIS:

Agency: Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Title: .gov registrar

OMB Number: OMB CONTROL NUMBER

Frequency: Once per domain registered

Affected Public: Employees representing state, local, territorial, and tribal governments

Number of Respondents: 1500 per year

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 20 minutes

Total Burden Hours: 500 hours

Robert J. Costello,

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Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

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